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Senator Patterson Comments on State of the State Address

LANSING- Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, issued the following comments on the State of the State Address:

"It seems the Governor and I are on the same page. Much of what the Governor intends to accomplish will continue to be my priorities – education and care for our children, fiscal responsibility, smaller and smarter government, lower health care costs, an increase in competitiveness in our business districts, and environmental protections.

"I was pleased to hear the Governor's interest in technology and energy issues. As Chair of the Technology and Energy Committee, many of these issues will come before my committee and I am looking forward to being a major factor in this area. It will be my job to ensure that not only Michigan is on the frontline in these advances, but that we are accomplishing this with the well-being of the people in mind.

"We must balance the budget, which means tough cuts are ahead. The goal is protect families, not programs and we plan to do what's in the best interest of the people.

"We must grow our economy and develop good, high-paying jobs for Michigan residents. To do this, Michigan must be competitive from a business-attraction and business-investment standpoint. This will be a high priority in the upcoming year.

"We, as citizens of Michigan, have access to a fifth of the world's supply of fresh water and have more beaches than any other state in the nation. It is a priority to protect these resources. We look forward to the Governor's comments and plans on protecting these resources, amongst others.

"Proposal 2 is a terrific opportunity for the Governor to not only stimulate the economy, but improve the water condition in Michigan. I am hopeful that the Governor will take quick action and implement what the people of Michigan have already voiced their support for."

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Senator Patterson is the author of Proposal 2, a proposal which allows a \$1 billion in funding for sewer infrastructure repair and will create many job opportunities for the state.

“The Governor still has a month to prepare her budget presentation, and we look forward to reviewing it when it is ready.

“The future of Michigan is dependent upon the Governor’s budget. We were looking forward to hearing a bit more, but we’ll remain optimistic since she has announced she does not want to raise taxes.

“Bottom line: because of the budget, tough decisions are coming. We need to set priorities. I am still keeping the people of Michigan as my priority – children, workers, parents and seniors who make up our great state. They are my priority, and they will continue to be my focus in the years ahead.”

Senator Patterson’s guest for the evening included Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo, Grosse Isle Supervisor Doug Jones and Grosse Ile Treasurer Kurt Kobiljak.

Editor’s Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Patterson with guests, as well as Representative Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will be available on Monday, February 10, on the Senate Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.

Audio comments from Patterson are available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000, or online at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/.